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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1913

PREVENTIVE DENTAL TREATMENT.

No more interesting fact was brought out by the speakers at the formal opening of the Medical College of Virginia than that the school will serve a five-fold purpose. It will train young men as physicians and surgeons in curative and preventive medicine. It will also supply the community need for hospitals, for trained nurses, for experts in pharmacy and in dental practice. In modern medicine the best doctor in the world would be at a loss without a hospital for the proper treatment of his cases and a nurse to carry out the details of his curative measures. The man who takes and sells drugs has made an important place to fill in the social body.

Especially do we desire to emphasize the increasing importance of the dentist as an agent in the prevention of disease. Whatever separation may have existed between the physician and the dentist in the past, it is plain to us now that dentistry is but a practical and applied branch of surgery and hygiene. The notion that the dentist is something like a jeweler and watchmaker is giving place to the truer conception of an expert in the diseases of the mouth with particular reference to digestion and general troubles.

The Young Men's Registration Committee of Richmond has the right idea and the right ideal. Patriotic and public-spirited young men of all other cities and towns in Virginia should form like bodies to the end that in Virginia popular apathy toward government may be decreased and popular interest in the public welfare increased.

WHAT WAS NEWS FIFTY YEARS AGO

With this issue we begin a daily digest of the news we published half a century ago. From time-to-time thereafter we shall construct a panorama of the past which will unfold to the present generation some of the events that interested not only the people of Richmond and of the old Dominion, but of the south and the rest of the country in the most momentous period of our national life.

Fifty years ago the eyes of the world were upon Richmond. The capital of the Confederacy was the Confederacy itself in the minds of the opposing forces that struggled four years, one to retain, the other to secure, its possession. So long as the Army of Northern Virginia kept the enemy from Richmond so long the hope of the confederacy faded. It was visited with battlefields. The echo of hostile guns was often heard in its streets, and its houses might be seen the abiding lair of the invaders; but when it finally fell all that was left of the confederacy was a name.

From day to day we shall here unfold the chronicles of what is to most of us a dim far-off time, although for some of the older it will revive memories of the days in which they were spectators or actors in the tragedy of the South's darkest travail. Here we shall read the things that most interested Richmond people fifty years ago—the things that amazed them, the things that made their hearts sink and their hopes fade. Here we shall read the story of a short-lived nation, suffering and starving, but always hoping, and here watch the rise and fall of the dream of a southern nation. Here we shall have a word photograph of Richmond life as it was ordered then, with its privations and its dimness, its alternating joys and sorrows.

The present and the future are the issues in which the people of Richmond and the remainder of Virginia move, but consciousness of vital connection with the past is not the least of their notable characteristics. No other education is offered them or is needed to fit them to thus reviving the record of an era of peculiar personal interest to them and of general interest to all mankind who went over Virginia in a hurry. They had no idea what was going to happen.

We would like to say something more and somewhat about this couple, but we hasten to say the couple is at a loss of Providence and contented, if anything, but that. There must be some moral to be drawn from the fact that Dr. Hartley vowed that he would not speak to a woman except personally, for a year, and that she did not say he would marry her. Maybe "Look before you leap" is even more deterrent than dead men's fingers.

Some interesting figures of the state of the teeth in school children are presented in a paper by Dr. R. E. Phagan, of the State Health Department, on a survey of Orange County schools. The children who live closest to villages show 16 per cent of defective teeth, rural white schools showed 47 per cent defective, with half of the trouble in permanent teeth. The colored children recorded only 9 per cent defective. These figures are suggestive as to the effects of diet on dental health. They certainly prove the need for wide and constant supervision of oral hygiene.

MARRIAGE OR FAITH.

Marriage is commonly esteemed to be somewhat of a lottery. A Philadelphia couple thinks it is also a game of blind fings and it is sincerely hoped that the printer's devil will not change that word "blind" into "informed." Hartley is going to wed the Willow Arnett on the condition that she shall not raise her veil for him to view her face until after the last word of the ceremony. He never has seen her face, for he has never over the telephone and waded her by mail and will wed her wrapped up like something buried post-O. D.

This sounds very much like a tale out of the Arabian Nights, when the one-eyed Noddy Bubble married the all-eyes Spectreman, sight unseen, or had his eye peeled out by the grand vizier. The doctor is clearly one of these faith-enthusiasts. He probably thinks because he is only skin-deep that the couple of the eye is often a good sign of good health after all. He is sure of love at first sight when some folks are after fifty years of looking over the breakfast tables at each other. And he means his spouse, same as was intended by the man who went over Virginia in a hurry. He had no idea what was going to happen.

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Hoffman would like to represent Alabama in the congressional Underwood.

Why is it that Johnson possesses no playmates? In the good old days many a contribution to the drama came out of the City by the James.

Where is the disdained boy who feasted on raw turnips?

About time for those paragraphs about November more.

The order of the pure food officials is to the effect that hereafter apples must be planted exactly for what they are. Hoffman helping him having

THE YOUNG MAN IN GOVERNMENT.

One of the liveliest, most efficient civic organizations of which we know is the Young Men's Registration Committee of Richmond.

It is a nonpartisan association, whose sole direct object is to increase the interest of the governed in their government, inasmuch as such a result is the concomitant of an enlarged electorate.

In 1912 this organization put 3,400 new voters on the registration books of Richmond. This year it expects to add several thousand more to the ranks of voters. Therefore it canvassed only the delinquent taxpayers but now it proposes to visit every man eligible to vote who has not qualified himself for the exercise of his highest political privilege and the discharge of his paramount civic duty.

The Young Men's Registration Committee numbers 400 men. They are assigned to the several precincts for personal work under a prefect captain. Each worker canvasses a block and in this way, it is hoped that every man eligible for registration can be reached in a single night. Cards explaining the registration plan and supplying other practical information will be distributed to the novices who should be voters.

This endeavor is wholly unselfish. These young men have no reward save the consciousness of civic duty well done. They are simply striving for larger popular participation in government, and that, if maintained and increased, means better government.

They are doing what they can to solve here one of the greatest problems of democratic government everywhere—how to secure a full response of the people to their civic obligations.

The most powerful indictment against the new movement for greater popular rule is the indifference shown by the people in using the new instruments of government put into their hands—the initiative, the referendum, the recall and the primary, local, State and presidential.

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